

Appln No. 09/909,353 Amdt date December 5, 2003 Reply to Office action of September 26, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Sent By: Christie Parker & Hala:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising:
- a base portion having an elongate guide rail [having] with a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of a knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail, and a handle support for engaging a handle of the knife; and
- a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.
- (Canceled)
- which contacts and is quided which contacts and is quide rul for movement. 3. (Currently Amended) The knife sharpening system of claim [2]1, wherein the handle support has a relief for receiving a handle of the knife.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The knife sharpening system of claim [2]1, wherein the handle support has a peg for engagement with a peg receiving aperture in a handle of the knife.

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- 5. (Original) The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the base portion has a blade platform upon which the blade of the knife will sit.
- 6. (Currently Amended) [The knife sharpening system of claim

 1. wherein the base portion has two guide rails and] A knife

 sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives,

 comprising:
- a base portion having two elongate guide rails, each with a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of the knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail, and wherein the knife support means will support [a] the knife in two, flipped over, orientations; and
- a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.
- 7. (Currently Amended) [The knife sharpening system of claim 1,]

 A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising:
- a base portion having an elongate guide rail with a top surface at a first level, wherein the guide rail is curved to match a curved knife (for) which the knife sharpening system is used to sharpen, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of the knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by

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a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail; and

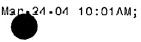
- a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.
- The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein 8. (Original) the sharpening implement is a sharpening stone.
- 9. (Original) The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the sharpening implement sits on the blade at a predetermined sharpening angle.
- 10. (Currently Amended) A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising:

at least one knife having a predetermined handle and blade size, shape, and blade edge angle;

a base portion having an elongate guide rail having a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of the knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail, and a handle support for engaging a handle of the knife;

and a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

11. (Canceled)



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- 12. (Currently Amended) The knife sharpening system of claim [11] 10, wherein the handle support has a relief for receiving the handle of the knife.
- 13. (Currently Amended) The knife sharpening system of claim [++]10, wherein the knife has an aperture formed in its handle, and the base portion has a peg for engagement with the aperture.
- 14. (Original) The knife sharpening system of claim 10, wherein the base portion has a blade platform upon which the blade of the knife will sit.
- 15. (Original) The knife sharpening system of claim 10, wherein the base portion has two guide rails and the knife support means will support a knife in two, flipped over, orientations.
- 16. (Canceled)